

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 34 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 15, 18, 24 and 25 have been amended. The specification has been amended to correct minor mistakes. The drawings have also been amended slightly so that the drawings conform to the written specification. The amended drawings are being submitted herewith with an accompanying petition. New Claims 35 to 99 are being added herein. No new matter has been added via any of the amendments or additions made herein. A one-month petition for extension of time to respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$_____ is also submitted herewith to cover the cost of the one-month extension and the new claims. Please Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

In the Office Action, the disclosure at page 8, lines 11 and 12 is object to. The specification is also objected to because the terms "component," "payline" and "wager component" are said to be synonymous. The form of Claim 6 is also objected to. Claims 1 to 3, 6, 12 to 18, 21, 22 and 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Fey, Slot Machines, Liberty Bell Books ("Fey"). Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Fey and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,380,007 to Travis et al. ("Travis"). Claims 7, 23, 29 and 30 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Fey and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,334,612 to Wurz et al. ("Wurz").

Regarding the objected to language in the specification on page 8 at lines 9 to 12, the specification has been amended so as to clarify the invention and has also been amended so as not to add new matter. Regarding the Examiner's interpretation of the term "component," Applicant respectfully traverses such interpretation. The terms "components," "payline" and "wager component" are set forth sufficiently in the specification and the specification speaks for itself. Applicant respectfully traverses any interpretation of these terms that limits their scope beyond the scope afforded by current law regarding the interpretation of terms used in a patent specification.

Regarding the objection to Claim 6, Applicant directs the Examiner to the amendment to the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9. It is

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

respectfully submitted that this amendment, which adds no new matter, removes the basis for the objection to Claim 6.

Before addressing the substantive portion of the Remarks, Applicant wishes to note for the record that Applicant appreciates the Examiner's obvious advanced level of understanding of the prior art and the care with which Examiner has explained the art to Applicant in the Office Action.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a gaming device that includes a controller, the controller including means for determining an amount of a player's wager. The wager includes a plurality of wagerable components. A display device is connected to the controller and the game is displayed on the display device. The game provides odds for a player winning an award. The odds of winning change linearly when either component of the wager changes.

Claim 1 as amended is patentably distinguished over *Fey* because *Fey* discloses a game with only one wager component, namely, the ability to bet one to six coins. That is, the *Fey Klondike* game allowed the player to insert from one up to six nickels in one slot up to six slots. The *Klondike* game did not teach, for example, allowing the player to insert a dime, quarter or a plurality of nickels into one or more of the slots. Accordingly, *Klondike* does not meet the limitations of Claim 1 which requires a plurality of wagerable components.

Claim 12 as amended is directed to a slot machine that has a jackpot award as an outcome of a player interactive event. The machine enables the player wagering a smallest machine allowable amount to have a chance at winning the jackpot. Also, a payout ratio for the jackpot award is constant regardless of the amount wagered.

Claim 12 as amended is patentably distinguished over *Fey*. In first instance, Claim 12 is directed to a slot machine. The *Fey Klondike* game is obviously not a slot machine. Accordingly, *Fey* cannot teach a game having a payout ratio that is constant regardless of a number of paylines wagered and an amount wagered per payline.

Claim 18 as amended is directed to a slot machine that includes a plurality of reels and at least one payline. At least one award is provided, wherein the odds of

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

winning the award vary proportionally based on the number of paylines played and vary proportionally based on a number of credits wagered per payline.

As discussed above, *Fey* does not disclose a slot machine having a plurality of reels and at least one payline.

Claims 24 and 25 have both been amended to include a slot machine having a plurality of reels and a payline. The player's odds of entering the bonus round change as a function of the player's wager per payline. Further, Claim 25 as amended includes a plurality of paylines where the player's chances of succeeding in a bonus game of the base game of slot changes as the number of lines wagered changes.

Claims 24 and 25 are distinguished over *Fey* for a number of reasons. First and foremost, *Fey* is not a slot machine, *Fey* does not disclose a plurality of reels and *Fey* does not disclose at least one payline. Accordingly, *Fey* cannot disclose a plurality of paylines as included in Claim 25. Moreover, *Fey* does not disclose a bonus game. Accordingly, *Fey* cannot even begin to teach or suggest making the chances of a player entering the bonus round be dependent upon the player's wager per payline. Indeed, *Fey* does not even allow the player to change a wager per one of the coin slots. Claim 25 provides additional distinguishing features over *Fey*, that is, Claim 25 includes the player's success in the bonus round being dependent upon the number of lines wagered by the player. *Fey* does not disclose a plurality of paylines, *Fey* does not disclose a bonus round, *Fey* does not disclose a slot machine, therefore, *Fey* cannot disclose the success of a bonus round being dependent upon the number of paylines wagered in the base game of a slot machine.

Independent Claims 35, 96 and 52 are directed to a gaming devices having a game and an award provided by playing the game. Each gaming device provides a first set of symbols that enable, at least in part, the player to achieve the award when the player makes a first wager. Each gaming device also includes a second set of symbols that at least in part enable the player to achieve a second award when the player makes a second wager. The second set of symbols having different odds of occurring than the first set of symbols. Claims 35, 96 and 52 are obviously not taught by *Fey*, which does not generate a set of symbols to yield an award.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/887,691

Each of the independent claims beginning with Claim 58 and ending with Claim 67 are distinguished over the art of record. Each of the claims is directed to a slot machine having a plurality of reels and plurality of paylines. *Fey* as discussed above does not disclose such a machine. Further, the claims each include a bonus game that is triggered by base game play of the slot machine. Again, because *Fey* does not disclose a slot machine, *Fey* cannot not disclose the bonus game of a slot machine. Further, each of the claims has odds that vary based on a number of paylines wagered and odds that vary based on the wager made per payline. Again, because *Fey* does not disclose the apparatus involved, *Fey* cannot disclose the varying odds of these independent claims.

Claims 76 to 87 are directed to a slot machine having a plurality of paylines in a plurality of reels and are therefore distinguished over *Fey* for the reasons discussed above.

New claims 88 to 91 are also distinguished over the art of record. As stated above, *Fey* does not disclose, teach or suggest a slot machine having a plurality of reels and a plurality of paylines. Therefore *Fey* and the other art of record do not disclose a gaming device having a base game and a bonus game, wherein the base game includes at least one payline that generates a base game award and wherein a separate payline is provided that is dedicated to enabling the player to enter the bonus round. As for Independent Claim 90, none of the art of record teaches passing each payline through a single paystop of one of a plurality of reels, wherein a symbol appearing on that paystop enables the player to enter the bonus round. Both of these claims are directed to apparatuses and methods for taking the number of paylines wagered out of the odds of generating a bonus game award, wherein the number of paylines wagered is instead factored into the bonus game or one or more levels of a multi-level bonus game.

Claims 92 to 99 are distinguished over the art of record, Claims 92 to 99 include a grid having a plurality of positions wherein a number of tries are randomly placed on the positions and the player obtains the tries as the player moves from a start position to an end position.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the applicant's attorney, Adam Masia, at (312) 807-4284 to discuss this Response.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning page 2, line 1 has been amended as follows:

Progressive slot machines contain jackpots that increase every time a player plays the slot machine. A linked progressive includes two or more slot machines connected to a common jackpot, each of which individually contribute to the jackpot. An individual progressive slot machine has a ~~self-contained~~ self-contained jackpot, wherein the jackpot grows with every play. The machines usually take a percentage of the player's bet such as 10%, and add it to the jackpot. The jackpots can reach sizeable amounts, e.g., \$1 million, before a player "hits" or wins the jackpot. Such sizeable jackpots become very attractive to players. Furthermore, as the jackpot grows, so does overall payout percentage of the game.

The paragraph beginning page 2, line 11 has been amended as follows:

Regardless of the type of progressive, known games typically require the player to play the maximum bet to be eligible to win the progressive jackpot. Even on a single payline dollar machine, the maximum bet can be \$5 (max bet on most slot machines is 5 credits per payline). Many players who are not willing to wager such an amount, or consistently willing to wager such an such an amount, are thus excluded from having an opportunity to win the progressive jackpot and enjoy its associated payout increase. A known progressive slot ~~machines~~ machine that requires a max bet to enable the player to win a jackpot includes a "Megabucks" game by IGT, the assignee of this invention.

The paragraph beginning page 3, line 18 has been amended as follows:

Other slot machines require the player to wager the max bet, i.e., the highest possible number of credits on each of the paylines, or max lines, i.e., at least ~~on one~~ one coin per payline before the game enables the player to win a predetermined award from a game of the gaming device. A known slot machine that requires a player to wager a max bet to enable the player to win an award includes a "Video Wheel of Fortune" game by IGT. In each of these situations, it is desirable to provide a gaming device having a game that enables any player to be eligible to win the award and enjoy its associated payout increase, regardless of the amount wagered.

The paragraph beginning page 6, line 12 has been amended as follows:

It should be appreciated that although the average investment necessary to win the jackpot does not vary, the jackpot itself does not have to remain constant, such as in the progressive game described above. The return on investment, which is a function of the jackpot amount divided by the

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

average total necessary investment can thus vary over time or upon playing different turns of the gaming device. Such a change of return on investment, however, applies equally to small stakes as well as large stakes players. The return on investment as a function of time or event can therefore vary; ~~however~~ However, the return on investment, at one time or upon one event, as a function of the amount of a player's wager (including components of the player's total wager), is constant.

The paragraph beginning page 7, line 9 has been amended as follows:

When the gaming device of the present invention is a slot machine, there exists two well known and standard components to the player's total bet or wager; namely, (i) the number of paylines ~~or components~~ that a player has bet and (ii) the player's bet per active payline ~~or component~~. Increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the number of paylines, when the winning symbols or combinations remain constant, is well known and is, in fact, one of the purposes of employing multiple paylines. The present invention, however, contemplates changing the winning symbols or combinations and thereby providing more favorable odds when the player plays more paylines. The present invention also contemplates increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the bet per active payline. The present invention further contemplates increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the paylines and the bet per active payline. For purposes of this application, ~~payline and component or wager component are referred to herein interchangeably, although it should be application that a "wager component"~~ includes but is not limited to a payline.

The paragraph beginning page 12, line 12 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 12 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 1 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of the bet per payline in the base game;

The paragraph beginning page 12, line 16 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 13 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 2 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered and the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the base game;

The paragraph beginning page 12, line 21 has been amended as follows:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

Fig. 14 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 3 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered in the base game and the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the bonus round;

The paragraph beginning page 13, line 3 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 15 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 4 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the base game and the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered in the bonus round;

The paragraph beginning page 13, line 8 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 16 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 5 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds in the base game and the bonus round and provides an additional odds constant in the bonus round;

The paragraph beginning page 13, line 13 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 17 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

The paragraph beginning page 13, line 15 has been amended as follows:

Fig. 18 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device 40 which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 6 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention provides an odds constant in the base game and varies the odds in the bonus round.

The paragraph beginning page 21, line 11 has been amended as follows:

Referring to both Figs. 3 and 4, it should be appreciated that the odds curve of Fig. 3 and the payout ratio line of Fig. 4 for the present invention do not require the jackpot y to have any particular value. In the example the jackpot is \$10,000, however, the jackpot can have any value, e.g., \$10, \$100, \$1,000, \$100,000, \$1,000,000, etc. The jackpot y can also vary over time or as a function of a gaming device event, i.e., from game to game. For example, on one spin of the reels 34 (Figs. 1A and 1B), the jackpot can be \$5,000 and on the next one spin the jackpot can be \$15,000, etc. The graphs of Figs. 3 and 4 apply to one spin of the reels or one turn at the gaming device. Within one spin or turn, the odds at winning a particular jackpot are better the more a player wagers, but the payout ratio for that particular jackpot is the same despite the amount

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

wagered. The present invention thus includes progressive games described above. Even if a particular progressive jackpot increases while the reels of a slot machine are spinning, the present invention still applies to whatever value is ultimately available for the player to win.

The paragraph beginning page 22, line 4 has been amended as follows:

To aid in the description of the present invention, it is helpful to illustrate the relationship, or lack thereof between the odds, the wager x , the award or jackpot y and the payout ratio z for other known gaming devices. Referring now to Fig. 5, a graph illustrates the odds as a function of a player's bet for the normal operation (i.e., non-jackpot award) of known slot machines. The graph includes the odds of winning an award ~~440~~ 100 along the y-axis of the graph and the amount wagered or player's bet 102 along the x-axis of the graph. Known gaming devices maintain predefined odds for each paying symbol or combination of symbols. The player can obtain more favorable odds by playing more paylines at one time, which increases the player's wager.

The paragraph beginning page 28, line 12 has been amended as follows:

It should be appreciated by one skilled in the art that in the method and apparatus of Fig. 12, \$100,000 will have to be wagered, on average, to win the \$10,000 award regardless of the amount that the player bets. It should also be appreciated that the ~~players~~ player's odds of winning, according the equation, $\text{odds} = y / (x * z)$, become more favorable to the player as the player increases the player's wager. It should further be appreciated that one skilled in the art can implement a similar game to Game 1, wherein the game provides and the payable displays different winning combinations having varying odds or chance at being randomly generated, and wherein the combinations and thus the odds change as a function of a change in the number of paylines wagered.

The paragraph beginning page 29, line 18 has been amended as follows:

It should be appreciated by one skilled in the art, that in Game 2, \$100,000 will need to be wagered, on average, to win the \$10,000 award regardless of the number of paylines wagered or the bet per payline. It should also be appreciated that the ~~players~~ player's odds of winning, according the equation, $\text{odds} = y / (x * z)$ become more favorable to the player as the player increases the number of paylines wagered and/or the bet per payline.

The paragraph beginning page 34, line 7 has been amended as follows:

It should be appreciated that in Game 4, \$100,000 will need to be wagered, on average, to win the \$10,000 award regardless of the number

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

of paylines wagered or the bet per payline. It should also be appreciated that the ~~players~~ player's odds of winning, according the equation, $\text{odds} = y / (x * z)$ become more favorable to the player as the player increases the player's wager. It should further be appreciated that the odds of entering the bonus round become more favorable to the player as the player increases the bet per payline and the odds of winning the bonus round become more favorable to the player as the player increases the number of paylines wagered.

The paragraph beginning page 41, line 15 has been amended as follows:

When the player finishes playing the spin grid game 154, and assuming the player has at least one spin, the player moves onto the second bonus game, which ~~is comprised of~~ includes a spinning wheel 156 having a plurality of wedge-shaped sections and a fixed cursor 158. The cursor 158 designates one of the wedge-shaped sections at all times. The wedges include a plurality of shields 160, a plurality of awards 162, preferably at least one free spin plus award 164 and preferably at least one free spin plus a shield 166. The number of shields 160, number of free spin plus shield wedges 166 and the overall number of wedges affect the overall odds of obtaining shields. If the player obtains five shields, the player wins the grand prize or jackpot, as illustrated by table 168. The game also preferably provides consolation awards for obtaining one through four shields.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A gaming device comprising:
 - a controller, ~~including~~ that includes means for determining an amount of a player's wager ~~including each component of said wager;~~
 - the wager including a plurality of wagerable components;
 - a display device connected to said controller;
 - a game adapted to be displayed to a player by said display device; and
 - said game having odds of said player winning an award ~~maintained by said controller, said odds changing whenever any component of said wager changes~~ said odds of winning changing linearly when any component of said wager changes.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said odds of winning said award increase ~~as said amount of~~ linearly when any component of said wager increases.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the game includes a plurality of reels and ~~at least one component~~ is a payline, and wherein said odds of winning said award increase when said player increases an amount wagered on said payline.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the game includes a plurality of reels and ~~a plurality of components which include~~ a plurality of paylines, and wherein said odds of winning said award increase as said number of wagered paylines increases.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a jackpot award as an outcome of a player interactive event, wherein said machine enables a player wagering the smallest machine allowable amount to have a chance to win said jackpot award, and wherein a payout ratio for the jackpot award is constant regardless of a number of paylines wagered and an amount wagered per payline.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) The ~~gaming device~~ slot machine of Claim 4, ~~which includes a payout percentage for all wagers~~ 12, which includes a plurality of awards, one of which is the jackpot award, and wherein a payout ratio for each of the plurality of awards is constant.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

14. (Amended) The ~~gaming device~~ slot machine of Claim 1, wherein ~~a single payout percentage increases as the wager increases~~ the odds of winning the jackpot award increase as the player's wager increases.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a jackpot award as an outcome of a player interactive event, ~~wherein said machine enables a player wagering the smallest machine allowable amount to have the lowest probability of winning said jackpot award~~ and odds of winning the jackpot award that increase linearly when a bet per payline wager increases and when a number of paylines wagered increases.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 12, ~~wherein said jackpot award is fixed~~ 15, wherein a payout ratio for the jackpot award is constant regardless of a number of paylines wagered and an amount wagered per payline.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 12, 15, wherein said jackpot award is progressive.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a plurality of reels and at least one payline, ~~whereby a player can wager different amounts on said payline, and wherein the odds of winning a defined award as a result of a game of said slot machine change when said player's wager changes where all wagers are eligible for the said award~~ wherein at least one award is provided and the odds of winning the award vary proportionally based on a number of paylines played and vary proportionally based on a number of credits wagered per payline.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

19. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, ~~wherein said game~~ which includes a number of attempts at randomly producing said award, said number of attempts being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline.

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, ~~wherein said game~~ which includes a number of attempts at randomly producing said award, said number of attempts being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline and upon at least one odds constant.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, ~~wherein said game~~ which includes a production of a plurality of symbols on said reels, said award being dependent upon a production of a predetermined symbol or symbol combination on a payline, said symbol or combination being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, ~~wherein said game~~ which includes a production of a plurality of symbols on said reels, said award being dependent upon a production of a predetermined symbol or symbol combination on a payline, said symbol or combination being dependent upon the number of wagered paylines.

Claim 23 has been amended as follows:

23. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, ~~wherein said game~~ which includes a bonus round of said slot machine.

Claim 24 has been amended as follows:

24. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a plurality of reels and a payline, whereby a player can wager different amounts on said payline, and wherein the odds of winning a defined award as a result of a game of said slot machine changes whenever said player's wager changes entering a bonus round change as the player's wager per payline changes.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

25. (Amended) A slot machine having a base game comprising a plurality of reels and a plurality of paylines, whereby a player can wager different amounts on a number of said paylines, and wherein the odds of winning an award as a result of a game of ~~said slot machine change whenever said player's wager changes~~ of entering a bonus game from the base game change depending on the player's wager per payline and a number of opportunities to achieve an award in the bonus game change depending on a number of paylines wagered.

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

26. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein the odds of winning an award as a result of said game change when said wager amount per payline changes entering the bonus game change as a result of different reel symbol combinations having different probabilities based on the wager per payline.

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

27. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein the odds of winning an award as a result of said game change when said number of wagered paylines changes entering the bonus game change proportionally based on the wager per payline.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein ~~the number of wagered paylines affects the odds of obtaining an award producing symbol or symbol combination, and wherein the wager amount per payline affects said symbol or symbol combination needed to generate said award~~ one of the paylines is dedicated to determining whether the player enters the bonus game.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

29. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, ~~which includes a bonus round of said slot machine in which said player can win said award, wherein the number of wagered~~

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

~~paylines affects the odds of triggering said bonus round, and wherein the wager amount per payline affects the odds of winning said award once said bonus round has been triggered~~ wherein each of the paylines passes through a single paystop on one of the reels.

Claim 31 has been amended as follows:

31. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, ~~which includes a bonus round of said slot machine in which said player can win said award, wherein the wager amount per payline affects the odds of triggering said bonus round and wherein the number of wagered paylines affects the odds of winning said award once said bonus round has been triggered~~ wherein the bonus game includes multiple levels, a first level having odds depending on the number of paylines wagered and a second level having constant odds.

Claim 32 has been amended as follows:

32. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 31, wherein at least one odds constant ~~also affects the odds of winning said award once said bonus round has been triggered~~ the first level.

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

33. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim ~~25~~ 31, wherein the ~~odds of triggering said bonus round are predetermined, and wherein the number of wagered paylines and the wager amount per payline affect the odds of winning said award once said bonus round has been triggered~~ first and second levels each include a random generation device selected from the group consisting of: a spinning wheel and a spinning reel.

Claim 34 has been amended as follows:

34. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 33, wherein ~~at least one odds constant also affects the odds of winning said award once said bonus round has been triggered~~ the bonus game award has a payout ratio that is constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

New Claims 35 to 99 have been added.